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Lunesdale Rural District Council



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1953


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LUNESDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council:

T. JOHNSON, ESQ.

Vice-Chairman:

ALD. W. J. GARNETT, D.L., J.P.

Public Health Committee:

Chairman:

MRS. M. DOWBIGGIN.

Vice-Chairman:

H. SHANNON, ESQ.

Committee:

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Cmdr. P. E. U. Townshend.
T. P. Woodhouse, Esq.
H. Woods, Esq.

Clerk of the Council:

E. SERCOMBE, ESQ.—deceased

J. A. HALLSWORTH, ESQ., D.P.A.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.SC.(Agr.), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

A. Warburton.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1953.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Lunesdale
Rural District Council:*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions in your District during 1953.

The form and content of the report follow that adopted last year, and are in accordance with the wishes of the Ministry of Health.

The estimated home population at 30th June, 1953, was 7,274, being eight less than the previous year's estimate.

There were 114 live births during the year, 19 fewer than in 1952, giving a crude birth rate of 15.7 per 1,000 population. The adjusted birth rate (*i.e.*, adjusted to allow for differences in sex and age distribution of the population) was 17.2 per 1,000, in comparison to a rate of 15.5 for England and Wales as a whole.

The total number of deaths assigned to the district was 75, four more than in the previous year, giving a crude death rate of 10.3 per 1,000 population. The adjusted death rate for Lunesdale was 9.5 per 1,000; the 1953 death rate for England and Wales was 11.4 per 1,000. In order of importance the chief causes of death were heart disease (all forms), which accounted for 29.3% of the total deaths, followed by cancer (22.7%) and vascular lesions of the nervous system (18.7%).

During 1953 no maternal deaths from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion occurred, and only one infant death was recorded.

As against 61 cases of notifiable infectious diseases last year, 152 cases, including five of tuberculosis, were notified during 1953. There was one death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis but again none from the respiratory form of this disease. Attention is also drawn in Section C of the report to the need for diphtheria immunisation to be maintained at a high level. A brief account has been given of two outbreaks of food poisoning which caused a good deal of unnecessary minor illness and discomfort in this and adjacent districts during the summer months. One of the objects of the Food and Drugs Amendment Bill at present before Parliament is to secure better hygienic conditions in places where food is prepared and served, and the inspection and supervision of food and food premises has now become one of the

most important Public Health duties of local authorities. For the safety of our food we are dependent to a large extent on the sense of responsibility of the individual who handles it. Clean premises and equipment and wrapped food by themselves are not enough; the simple gospel of regular hand washing, especially after every visit to the toilet, cannot be too widely spread or too often repeated.

In Section D your Sanitary Inspector has reported on the various environmental services which affect the sanitary circumstances of your area, and which the general public tend to take so much for granted ; despite all the advances that have been made towards improved health these services are still vital to the community. During the year under review slow but steady progress has been made with various schemes designed to improve housing conditions and water supplies, and at the end of the year approval was being sought for the provision of modern sewage facilities for four of the largest villages in the district.

In conclusion I wish to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the support and encouragement.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. FARQUHAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA**

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA of the District (Acres)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76,267
POPULATION (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,351
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate mid/53)	...						7,274
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931)	...	...					1,633
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951 Census)...							2,091
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1953)	...	...					2,206
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE (1953)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.29
NUMBER OF HOUSES PER ACRE (1953)	...	...	...				0.03
NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ACRE (1953)	...	...					0.09
RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	...	...	£46,722
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	...	...					£185.449

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS.

The social conditions of the District are reasonably satisfactory and the chief occupations of the inhabitants are :—

Agriculture.

Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).

Brick manufacture.

There is no unemployment in the District.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

				Total	Male	Female
Live Births (Legitimate)	...	...	...	112	53	59
(Illegitimate)	...	...	...	2	1	1
	TOTAL	...		114	54	60
Birth-Rate per 1,000 estimated	...	...		15.7	Crude :	
home population, mid/53.	...	...	...	17.2	Adjusted :	
Still Births	...	...	...	2	Nil.	2
Rate per 1,000 Total Births (live and still)				17		
Deaths (Total)	...	...	...	75	45	30
Death-Rate per 1,000	...	...	...	10.3	Crude :	
estimated home population	...	...	...	9.5	Adjusted :	

Maternal Mortality :—

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth
and abortion Nil.

Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live
and still) births Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

No. of Deaths registered 1

Death-Rate :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... 9

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate
live births 9

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegiti-
mate live births Nil.

Neo-natal Mortality :—

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age 1

Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 9

**TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1953.**

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	3	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	7	14
Coronary disease, angina	5	3	8
Hypertension with heart disease	2	—	2
Other heart disease	6	6	12
Other circulatory disease	1	—	1
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Bronchitis	1	—	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea... ..	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	9	2	11
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
All other accidents	2	—	2
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war... ..	—	—	—
TOTALS	45	30	75

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1953 AND THE PERIOD 1948—1952.

	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
YEAR												
1953 ...	114	15.7*	75	10.3*	2	17	Nil.	Nil.	1	9	1	9
1952 ...	133	18.3	71	9.8	1	7	1	7.46	2	15	1	8
1951 ...	121	16.7	101	13.9	1	8	Nil.	Nil.	3	25	2	17
1950 ...	117	15.6	85	11.3	5	41	Nil.	Nil.	2	17	2	17
1949 ...	124	16.7	63	8.5	2	16	Nil.	Nil.	5	40	Nil.	Nil.
1948 ...	126	18.6	84	12.4	3	23	Nil.	Nil.	3	23	Nil.	Nil.
AVERAGE 1948-1952	—	17.2	—	11.2	—	19	—	1.49	—	24	—	8

* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.10) = 17.2.
death-rate (comparability factor, 0.92) = 9.5.

SECTION B.

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
OF THE AREA.**

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

Samples of water, milk and specimens in connection with infectious diseases are sent to the Pathology Department at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for bacteriological examination. Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst at Preston.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance services for the Area are controlled by the Lancashire County Council, through the Divisional Health Office at Victoria House, Regent Street, Lancaster.

(c) Domiciliary Services.

The District Nursing, Midwifery and Home Help Services for the District are provided by the Lancashire County Council through the Divisional Health Office, at Lancaster.

One District Nurse/Midwife is resident at Caton, one District Nurse/Midwife living at Gressingham also acts as a Health Visitor in the northern portion of the District. Seven home helps living in various parts of the District are available on application to the Divisional Health Office.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The following Centres and Clinics catering for the area have been established by the Lancashire County Council :—

School Clinics.

- (1) Market Street, Carnforth.
- (2) Thurnham House, Lancaster.

Child Welfare Centres.

- (1) Village Institute, Hornby.
- (2) The Institute, Caton.
- (3) Market Street, Carnforth.

(e) Hospitals.

These are administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious diseases are admitted to Beaumont Hospital, Slyne Road, Lancaster. General cases are admitted to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

SECTION C.

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1953.

Diseases	Total Cases	Age Periods—Years								
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over
Diphtheria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever...	28	—	—	9	14	4	1	—	—	—
Measles ...	67	2	7	20	25	10	1	2	—	—
Whooping Cough...	26	1	7	5	12	1	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	11	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	7	—
Pneumonia ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	8	—	—	1	—	5	—	—	2	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total cases ...	147	5	14	35	51	20	8	4	10	—

GENERAL INCIDENCE.

As against 61 cases of notifiable infectious diseases last year, 152 cases, including five of tuberculosis, were notified during 1953. Much of the increase was due to measles which appeared mainly in the parishes adjacent to the West Riding boundary, in the early spring. Sporadic cases of whooping cough were reported throughout the year, and scarlet fever was largely confined to the parishes of Tatham and Wennington.

The incidence of bowel infections was also greater than in recent years, eight cases of dysentery and eleven cases of food poisoning being recorded in 1953.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case of diphtheria was notified during the year, in a soldier at the Halton Bridging Camp, but bacteriological investigations in hospital failed to confirm the diagnosis.

The remarks in my last annual report as to the importance of maintaining a high rate of immunisation against diphtheria are still apposite, and the often tragic effect of this disease in children who have not been immunised should not be forgotten. Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor or at school clinics and child welfare centres. In the following table the numbers of Lunesdale children immunised during the last three years are compared.

Immunisations carried out during the years ended 31st December 1953, 1952 and 1951 in Lunesdale.

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the period.									
Age at final injection									
Year	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	Total under 5 years	5-9	10-14	Total 5-14 years
1953	40	37	4	3	2	86	21	2	23
1952	40	34	11	5	4	94	15	2	17
1951	30	43	4	1	1	79	9	—	9
Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection <i>i.e.</i> , subsequent to complete course									
					Age Group				
Year		0-4		5-9		10-14		Total under 15 years	
1953	... ..	12		105		29		146	
1952	... ..	12		103		19		134	
1951	... ..	7		56		13		76	

FOOD POISONING.

Lunesdale did not altogether escape the two outbreaks of food poisoning which occurred in this part of the country during the summer months.

The first outbreak, attributable to *salmonella bovis morbificans* through the medium of meat pies, affected no less than 801 individuals in 26 different districts of Lancashire, mainly in the North West. In your District seven cases were notified between 12th and 15th June, and one of these required treatment in hospital for several weeks. The meat pies were not manufactured locally.

Four cases due to a different food poisoning organism, *salmonella typhi murium*, were notified in the last week of July, and these formed part of an outbreak which affected several Districts surrounding Lancaster. A series of bacteriological examinations was carried out on all cases and their immediate contacts, until an adequate number of negative specimens of faeces had been obtained. Seven food handlers were investigated but all were found to be negative. Cooked meats manufactured outside the District were responsible in this incident.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Other forms		Respiratory		Other forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Over 65	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	1

SECTION D.

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA.**

WATER SUPPLY.

Apart from the remote and high-lying farms in the south and east portions of the District, the area is reasonably well served with water from the Council's mains and a good supply is offered to most properties.

The chief sources of supply are obtained from the Manchester Corporation's Thirlmere Aqueduct which passes through the District from north to south. By agreement, the Council have taken four main connections and one subsidiary off the Aqueduct at suitable points to serve schemes in the following parishes :—

- (1) Regional Scheme serving Arkholme, Whittington, Gressingham, Aughton, Melling, Cantsfield, Tunstall, Burrow, Leck, Ireby, Wennington and Tatham.
- (2) Borwick, a separate scheme, which, after serving properties in the Area, passes into the Lancaster Rural District to serve a portion of that Area.
- (3) Nether Kellet and Over Kellet.
- (4) Halton.

The subsidiary connection is brought into use only in times of emergency and serves a part of the parish of Caton.

The Council have two schemes under their own direct management, one for a portion of the parishes of Hornby and Wray, known locally as the Hornby Castle Supply, and the other serving a part of the parish of Caton.

The Hornby Castle Supply was purchased by the Council in 1938 from the then Hornby Castle Estate, and the water is obtained from an intake on the River Roeburn. Treatment of the water consists of settling tanks, slow sand filtration and chlorination prior to storage. A carbon filter was installed in 1948 for the purpose of de-chlorinating the water before distribution and this filter has been found to be most successful in its work.

The Caton scheme was installed as a private supply nearly seventy years ago and was purchased from the Caton Water Company in 1905. Two intakes from a stream known as Traitor's Gill, and one from Tarn Brook are provided, and the water passes through a rough gravel filter before being stored in an open reservoir of nearly 1,000,000 gallons capacity. Before distribution the water is chlorinated by means of a Hypo-chlorinator on the main.

Water is also obtained from the Lancaster City mains to provide a piped supply to 75 houses in the District. Of these properties 63 are situated in the parish of Quernmore and 12 houses are supplied with water before any treatment takes place owing to their situation

above the filter houses. The remaining 12 houses are in the parish of Halton and receive treated water. No complaints regarding this source of supply have been received.

Four properties in the parish of Whittington obtain their water from the South Westmorland Rural District Council's supply, the water being purchased in bulk by the Council. This scheme was carried out in conjunction with the Agricultural Executive Committee.

A private supply, owned by the Claughton Manor Brick Company Ltd., is piped into about 40 houses in the parish of Claughton. This water is collected from the hillside, passed through a gravel filter and stored in an open reservoir of approximately 12,000 gallons capacity before being piped direct into the houses. Samples of this water, on bacteriological examination, show a wide variation in quality.

Seven houses (including three farms) in the hamlet of Farleton obtained a piped supply from a private source on the hillside above the properties, and here again on bacteriological examination great variation in quality is noticed. A scheme for the extension of the mains on the Hornby Castle Supply has been prepared with a view to incorporating supplies to these latter two parts of the District and I would stress that this work should be proceeded with at the earliest opportunity.

An extension of the Council's main to part of the parish of Cantsfield, involving the laying of some 1,088 yards of 3inch and 132 yards of 2inch pipes, has solved one of the problems in that part of the Area. Previously the properties in the hamlet were dependent upon private springs and wells, but with the mains extension the major portion of the parish is now provided with an adequate water supply. Those premises still using their own supplies are farms situated some considerable distance away from the mains and the expense in carrying out further extensions would have to be borne by the owners concerned in conjunction with the Agricultural Executive Committee.

Water Supplies to Houses in the District:

Parish	From Public Mains		Private Supplies	
	Direct to Houses	Population Served	No. of Houses.	Population Served
Arkholme-with-Cawood ...	52	160	28	99
Borwick	38	115	9	27
Burrow-with-Burrow ...	47	129	6	20
Cantsfield	19	67	4	18
Caton-with-Littledale ...	418	1,358	50	164
Claughton	—	—	41	107
Gressingham	44	117	4	14
Halton-with-Aughton ...	308	1,078	14	49
Hornby-with-Farleton ...	134	420	15	45
Ireby	15	63	5	18
Nether Kellet	78	270	3	11
Over Kellet	97	287	34	110
Leck	48	162	10	36
Melling-with-Wrayton ...	62	228	—	—
Quernmore	82	290	91	320
Roeburndale	—	—	19	96
Tatham	48	178	69	257
Tunstall	25	80	5	14
Wennington	42	140	2	7
Whittington	76	232	22	67
Wray-with-Botton	115	356	27	122
Total Whole District ...	1,748	5,730	458	1,601

Samples of water from various sources are forwarded to the Laboratory at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for bacteriological examination, and the results of analysis of the samples submitted during 1953 are set out below :—

Number of samples of raw water submitted	32
Number found to be satisfactory	20
Number found to be Unsatisfactory	5
Number found to be Fairly Satisfactory	7
Number of samples of treated water submitted ...	22
Number found to be Satisfactory	22
Number found to be Unsatisfactory	—

Chemical Analysis: One sample of untreated water serving a public mains supply was forwarded to the Public Analyst at Preston and he reported that the sample was satisfactory for domestic use. One water sample from a proposed private supply was reported upon as Chemically unsatisfactory for domestic use.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Towards the end of the year, two public enquiries were held relative to the proposed sewerage and sewage disposal works in Nether Kellet and Over Kellet. The only opposition to the schemes was with regard to the compulsory purchase of land, in one of the villages, for the treatment works, and the schemes were well supported by members of both Parish Councils and residents in the villages. Ministerial approval has since been received for the carrying out of the proposed works and it is hoped that work will be commenced on the schemes during the latter part of 1954.

A number of other sewage schemes are already in course of preparation, and owing to an injunction obtained against the Council in 1952, the scheme for sewage disposal in the Halton parish is to be proceeded with as early as possible.

The treatment of sewage forms one of the major problems throughout the whole of the Council's Area and it is pleasing to be able to report that some progress is being made to deal with this subject. Complaints regarding the effluents from tanks under the control of the Council have been received from the Lancashire River Board and these complaints can only be rectified by the provision of adequate treatment works in the larger centres of population in the District.

Conditions prevailing in various parts of the District have not altered from my last report and details are again set out below :—

Arkholme.—There are no sewers or treatment works provided, but houses where water closets are installed have septic tanks. Sink waste drainage is dealt with in some cases by the surface water drains.

Borwick.—No sewers or treatment works provided. Drains from several properties are connected to septic tanks.

Burrow.—Similar conditions prevail.

Cantsfield.—Properties provided with water closets have their own tanks.

Caton.—Most of the properties in the village are provided with water closets and an old system of sewerage is provided. Treatment is most unsatisfactorily provided at four separate tanks, but all are seriously overloaded and inadequate to meet present day needs.

Brookhouse.—A separate hamlet in Caton parish, has a sewerage system, the treatment being by settlement and land irrigation. These works are obsolete and the irrigation area inadequate.

Claughton.—No sewers are provided and only a few houses with water closets have treatment tanks.

Gressingham.—No sewers available. Most houses have privies or pails but those with water closets drain to private tanks.

Halton.—This village is sewered and almost every house has a fresh water closet. No treatment works are provided and the sewage discharges direct into the River Lune at two points, causing pollution which has given rise to numerous complaints.

Hornby.—Sewers are provided in the village but treatment is unsatisfactory with resultant pollution of the river and a stream, the treatment tanks being seriously overloaded and out of date.

Farleton.—No sewers or treatment works available.

Ireby.—No sewers or treatment works are provided in this hamlet, sink waste drainage from most properties is discharged into the local stream.

Nether Kellet.—A number of houses are connected to an old surface water sewer which passes through the village and discharges, without treatment, into a small stream. Complaints regarding the pollution of this stream are frequent.

Over Kellet.—Similar conditions prevail as mentioned above for Nether Kellet, sewage and sink waste drainage is discharged into two streams passing through the village.

Leck and Cowan Bridge.—Properties with water closets have their own tanks but otherwise sink waste drainage ultimately finds its way into a stream.

Melling-with-Wrayton.—Nearly all the properties have water closets and small septic tanks are provided.

Quernmore.—There are few groups of houses in this scattered parish and no sewers are available. Houses with water-borne sanitation have their own tanks.

Roeburndale.—Dwelling-houses in this parish are mostly farms and no public sewers are available.

Tatham.—A very scattered moorland parish with no sewers. Septic tanks are provided to deal with individual water closets in the farm properties.

Tunstall.—No sewers or disposal plant provided, but houses with water closets are served by small tanks.

Wennington.—Individual or joint tanks are used for sewage treatment, but no sewers are provided.

Whittington.—Two tanks are provided at the northern end of the village to deal with sewage passed from an old surface water drain, serving properties in the vicinity, the rest of the property where water closets are installed, are provided with tanks.

Wray-with-Botton.—Sewers are provided and sewage is treated in tanks, one at each end of the village. These tanks are seriously overloaded and the effluent is the source of complaint from local residents and the River Board.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

An estimate is given below of the type of sanitary accommodation available at properties in the Area at the end of the year :—

No. of Pail Closets	...	60	No. of Ashbins	...	...	2,440
No. of Privy Middens...	750		No. of Closets attached			790
No. of Houses on Water			No. of Fresh Water			
Carriage System	...	1,340	Closets	...	...	1,654

Conversions during 1953:—

No. of Privy Closets to Water Closets	...	...	...	...	19
No. of fixed receptacles to moveable Ashbins	...	...	...	...	18

It will be appreciated that very little progress can be made in converting the large number of privies to water closets until proper and efficient sewers and treatment works are provided for the various villages. Where conversions have taken place, small septic tanks have been provided, and these have, for the most part, been in connection with houses away from villages and possible sewerage schemes.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council undertake the collection of household refuse throughout the area on a fortnightly basis; five workmen and two vehicles are employed on this. One vehicle, a Karrier of 10 cubic yards capacity, with a crew of three men, serves the more populous centres of the District and the other vehicle, a Bedford of 7 cubic yards capacity, with two men, is used for the more outlying and scattered parts of the Area.

During 1953, refuse was moved from 49,876 ashbins and 3,102 ashpits were emptied, the vehicles having travelled 17,246 miles on this work. These figures show a progressive increase over a period of years due, in some measure, to the erection of new houses in the District, but ratepayers in parts of the area not now covered by this service are regularly making application for their refuse to be removed. This is, without doubt, the main cause of the increase, and the time is approaching when additional labour and vehicles will have to be used to maintain even a regular fortnightly collection. The emptying of privies and pails is carried out during routine refuse collection and complaints have been received from time to time of spillage from the vehicles when this work is in progress. Reasonable precautions are adopted to eliminate these complaints but only the provision of proper sewage treatment works and the conversion of these types of convenience will rectify this trouble, as it would not be financially sound to provide a special vehicle merely to collect this type of house refuse.

The disposal of refuse in the District is carried out on a tip at Timpenny Quarry in the parish of Nether Kellet. This tip is sited on the northern side of the River Lune and is not readily accessible for all parts of the area; long hauls are necessary for the disposal of refuse collected in the more eastern portion of the District. The Council have considered this matter on a number of occasions but no alternative site of a suitable nature has yet been found which would cut down haulage costs.

The salvage of waste paper was continued during the year and 18 tons 19 cwts. and 2 yrs. of this material was disposed of. The workmen employed on the refuse collection service are paid a bonus in this connection and the quantity of material collected has not varied greatly whilst the bonus scheme has been in operation during the past three years.

HOUSING.

The construction of 20 new houses by the Council during the year shows an increase over the previous year and the building of 14 houses by private enterprise brings the total new houses completed during the year to 34. There were still on the Council's list some 180 applicants desirous of housing accommodation in the various parishes in the District, and at the present rate of progress, the Council have a long way to go before the housing problem is finally cleared in the area.

Overcrowding is not a major difficulty in the District; only two cases were on record at the year end involving three families, and no new cases were discovered during the year.

As mentioned in previous reports, the general standard of accommodation in the area is reasonably good. Whilst many of the older houses are without modern amenities, such as baths and hot water supplies, the fabric of the property, being of local stone, is reasonably sound. Dampness in these houses is, of course, to be expected, when it is borne in mind that the houses were built some fifty or sixty years ago, and great difficulty would be experienced in providing these houses with proper damp-proof courses to eliminate this trouble. It is estimated that some 50% of the houses in the District are owner-occupied and modern amenities are being installed in a number of properties in this class as soon as financial circumstances permit. As mentioned previously in the report, the inadequacy of modern sewage facilities is retarding progress in this direction. Properties occupied on a rental basis also lack these amenities but this is only to be expected when it is realised that there are houses in good general repair let at rentals as little as 3s. 6d. per week in some cases. Owners with houses yielding so small an income must be considerably out of pocket over a period of years if the houses are to be kept in a reasonable standard of repair.

The provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, relating to the financial assistance which can be obtained for renovation and modernisation of properties is becoming more widely known, but still more publicity should be given to this particular statute to bring the matter before the general public. The Council have received applications regarding six houses during the year and all these applications were finally approved by the Ministry. Work commenced on these properties, and at the end of the year three houses had been completed to comply with the requirements of the Act and the grant paid to the owners. All expressed appreciation of the assistance given, and this has led to further enquiries from other interested owners.

Difficulties have, of course, arisen in particular villages where sewers are not available but it is anticipated that as soon as these are provided more owners of properties on the lines of the sewer will be anxious to take advantage of the scheme, and the more owners who can be persuaded to modernise their property, the fewer new houses the Council will have to provide.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES.

No. of premises inspected during the year	...	...	...	...	301
No. of visits made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	465
No. inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	...	...	...	246
No. of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	320
No. of premises found not in all respects reasonably fit...	...				62
No. of premises rendered fit by informal action	...	...	...		38
No. of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made					Nil.
No. of houses Demolished	...	...	...	...	Nil.

INSPECTION OF SHOPS.

The majority of the shops in the District are small semi-domestic businesses, very few having employees outside the proprietors' domestic circle. There are 41 premises of this nature in the area, and these are visited at least twice each year. It has not been found necessary to take any action for infringements of the Shops Act or Public Health Act during the year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

All meat consumed in the District is slaughtered outside the area, either at the Central Slaughterhouses in Lancaster or Kendal. No complaints regarding the quality or condition of the meat have been received during the year, but local traders are very co-operative when such complaints are brought to their notice.

Other food preparing premises are visited regularly and have been found to be of a reasonable standard. The Ministry of Food Buffer Depot at Claughton is periodically visited and it was found necessary to condemn six 6lb. cans of Imported Corned Beef and approximately 900lbs. of Imported Flour at the Depot during the year.

In addition, four 12oz. cans of Imported Corned Beef and 85 carcasses of Dressed Poultry from Ireland were examined at the request of owners and all these were found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption and were destroyed. All these foodstuffs were disposed of by burying on the Council's refuse tip.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The supervision of the production of milk, other than the inspection of retail producers is under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Most of the milk sold in the area is provided by producers who are also wholesalers, and it is pleasing to note that the bulk of milk supplied to consumers in the District is now bottled and sold from farms with either Accredited or T.T. herds. Two retailers are registered with the Council for the sale of T.T. Pasteurised Milk, the supply being obtained from Dairies outside the District.

Samples of milk sold by retail in the District are obtained from time to time for submission to the Pathologist at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, and these are examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli, keeping quantity and cleanliness quality. Of 22 specimens examined during the year all were reported upon as being free from Tuberculosis and passed the test for keeping quantity, but two samples failed the cleanliness test.

Milk supplied to schools in the District is obtained either from local farmers near the school who produce T.T. Milk, or from dairies outside the area supplying heat-treated milk. Samples are regularly obtained by the staff of the County Health Department and few complaints are received as to quality or treatment.

RODENT CONTROL.

Since the coming into operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, in March 1950, the Council have been responsible for its operation and three of the employees of the Council have been trained in this service and work on a part-time basis. These workmen are released from other duties when the occasion arises and carry out treatments to premises where necessary. Set out below are details of the work carried out during the fifteen months ending on 31st March, 1954, and it is pleasing to report that it has not been found necessary to issue any notices for the carrying out of any work under the Act.

No. of properties visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	544
No. of premises found to be infested by rats—major	...	...						4
—minor	...	...						62
No. of premises found to be infested by mice	...	...	...					6
No. of infested premises treated	...	...	...	...	...	...		67
No. of "Block" Control schemes carried out	...	...	...	...				4

The Agricultural Executive Committee carry out contract work for many farmers in the District under their powers in this connection and the Council endeavour to work alongside the Committee where necessary to rid premises of infestation.

Regular routine visits are paid to the refuse tips in the area and although no complaints regarding the presence of vermin on any of these sites have been received during the year, regular baiting and poisoning of the sites is carried out as a precautionary measure.

The sewers in the District are treated twice each year in accordance with the Ministry recommendations and the figures set out below give details of the work carried out in this respect :—

Total number of manholes baited	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
No. of manholes showing prebait take	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
No. of manholes showing complete prebait take (one or both days)	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
No. of manholes showing complete poison take	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
No. of manholes showing part poison take	...	...	...	...	...	...	44

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

There were 52 premises of this nature on the register at the end of the year and visits have been made on 64 occasions during the past twelve months.

Very little complaint can be made regarding the condition of these works. During the year one proprietor was requested to clean down his premises and this work was carried out without delay.

